

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-9 and 11-16 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Koakutsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,224) (hereinafter "Koakutsu") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 2, lines 12-19 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 9 call for, *inter alia*:

enabling the apparatus for switching an error mode on or off via the input unit, checking whether the error mode is switched on via the input unit, and producing an output signal in a method step, only outputting the output signal as at least one of an optical or an acoustic signal if the error mode is switched on and not outputting the output signal if the error mode is not switched on.

The Koakutsu reference does not show an output signal that is always produced.

On page 6, lines 5-6 of the Office action, the Examiner alleges that the produced output signal of the present invention reads on the "paper out signal" in Koakutsu. However, Koakutsu discloses that the paper out signal is not always produced, instead Koakutsu discloses that the paper out signal is only produced if there is no more paper loaded. Therefore, Koakutsu discloses that there are only two possibilities. The first possibility is that the printer runs out of paper, this is detected by the paper-end sensor (29) and then the out of paper signal is produced and always sent to the control unit (28). Consequently, the printer (2) goes offline which is shown via one of the LEDs (column 7 and figure 10). The second possibility is that there is enough paper in the printer and then the paper-end sensor (29) does

not detect a lack of paper and therefore does not send a signal code to the control unit (28) and then the printer stays online. In the second case, Koakutsu discloses that a "paper out signal" (output signal) is not produced and therefore, cannot be output by changing the printer from the online status to the offline status which is signaled by the LEDs. Furthermore, the user of such a printer has no possibility to influence such a situation. However, according to claims 1 and 9 of the instant application, the output signal is always produced but the output signal is not always output as an optical or acoustic signal. In the present invention as claimed, the output signal is only output if the error mode is switched on.

The present invention as claimed provides the advantage that errors always lead to a production of an output signal that is stored in the computer but only shown to a user if the error mode is switched on. In the present invention as claimed, even if the error mode is not switched on, the output signal is produced and stored in the computer, so that later on a user can recall the errors stored in a memory of the computer and have a close look at the errors recorded during the running of the machine. Koakutsu discloses that the process flow which leads to turning off or on the offline online LEDs is fixed and cannot be influenced by the operator. Therefore,

Koakutsu does not disclose the possibility to recall any errors that have not been shown. Koakutsu discloses that the errors are shown immediately. Koakutsu discloses that the errors that occur are always output and no errors are first stored and only shown later if a user wants to see them.

As seen from the above, given remarks, the reference does not show enabling the apparatus for switching an error mode on or off via the input unit, checking whether the error mode is switched on via the input unit, and producing an output signal in a method step, only outputting the output signal as at least one of an optical or an acoustic signal if the error mode is switched on and not outputting the output signal if the error mode is not switched on, as recited in claims 1 and 9 of the instant application.

In item 15 on page 5 of the Office action, claim 10 has been rejected as being obvious over Koakutsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,224) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 9 is allowable over Koakutsu, dependent claim 10 is also allowable over Koakutsu as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 9. Claims 1 and 9

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are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect  
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner  
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Respectfully submitted,

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